

GENERAL NOTES

A GENERIC REPLACEMENT NAME IN THE NACOPHORINI (GEOMETRIDAE)

One of the twenty new generic names proposed in "A Generic Revision of the New World Nacophorini (Lepidoptera, Geometridae)" (Rindge, 1983, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 175:147-262) was *Azuayia*. D. S. Fletcher of the British Museum (Natural History) was kind enough to remind me that this name had already been published by Dodge (1967, *Pacific Insects* 9:681). I hereby propose the replacement name *Postazuayia* for *Azuayia* Rindge, 1983, op. cit., p. 199; the type species remains *Cidariophanes stigmatalis* Dognin, and the gender is feminine.

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THE CORRECT NAME FOR WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED *LYCAEIDES ARGYROGNOMON* IN NORTH AMERICA

I have been asked by the Chairman of the Committee to Review/Update Memoir No. 2 of the Lepidopterists' Society to explain briefly the confusion that has arisen in North America over the name *Lycaeides argyrognomon* as used by various authors. I think the situation is sometimes misunderstood; so I shall review the circumstances in which the name has been used during the last 150 years and of the final identification of Bergsträsser's butterfly, *Lycaeides argyrognomon*. Before doing so I must emphasize, to avoid confusion, the importance of using the correct, valid names for all animals. Rules for the formation and use of names have been the concern of zoologists at least since 1842, with rules and codes of practice usually agreed upon by committees of eminent specialists. The last *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* was published in 1964 including Rules and Recommendations accepted by all countries. Its most important objectives are to maintain the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy.

Turning now to the name *argyrognomon*, this was introduced into general butterfly nomenclature as *Cupido argyrognomon* in 1871 by W. F. Kirby in his *Synonymic Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera*. From that time most European authors applied this name, as used by Kirby, to cover the European species of *Lycaeides*, before, of course, the presence of a second European species was discovered. In the early years of the present century the well-known French entomologist Charles Oberthür became interested in the group. The importance of genitalic structure in butterfly taxonomy was just becoming known, and Oberthür realized the presence in Europe of two species of *Lycaeides*, one of them a local insect, its male genitalia with long falces, which he named in 1910 as *Lycaena argus ligurica*. At the same time he wrote to two well-known specialists, Prof. Courvoisier and Dr. Chapman in England, asking them to investigate "*Lycaena argus* and its forms, Races and Species." Material for this investigation was obtained from many localities in Europe and Asia. The two entomologists selected by Oberthür made independent reports which were included by Oberthür in his private publication in 1917 (*Lep. Comp.* XIV:2-70), including a note from Dr. Reverdin about the genitalic structure in *Lycaeides* and numerous photographic plates. Both men agreed that two species were present in Europe. Prof. Courvoisier accepted Oberthür's name

ligurica for the species with long falces so newly identified. Chapman described it as a "New European *Lycaena*" under the name *argus* sp. nov.

As the years passed more names were published, difficulties arose, and the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (I.C.Z.N.) was asked to help with the situation reported by Courvoisier and Chapman. They were asked especially to select suitable names for those species recently identified by examination of the genitalia and to select a type species for the genus *Lycaeides*. All of this proved to be extremely difficult. It involved examination of a large number of specimens. In many cases no obvious scientific name existed, and finding one often called for considerable ingenuity; so, not surprisingly, the work took several decades. The first results were promulgated by the Commission in 1945 (Opinion 169) and finally in 1954 (Opinion 269). Among the important decisions was the selection of the Linnean name *idas* 1761 for the commoner species of *Lycaeides*. This was made possible by suppressing the earlier appearance of the name for a species so badly described as to be impossible to interpret. In dealing with the second species, recently identified and with specific characters in the male genitalia, the Commission was fortunate when it was found and announced in Opinion 269 that these characters were actually present in specimens of *Lycaeides* from the Bruchköbler Wald in northern Germany as recorded by Bergsträsser in his original description. *Lycaeides argyrognomon*, therefore, must become the valid specific name for this species, with impressive priority to 1779, taking precedence before all others.

During the long interval after the Commission began its work and the final Opinion in 1954, entomologists naturally continued to use the butterfly names with which they were familiar. It was during these years that V. Nabokov made many contributions, especially concerning the *Lycaeides* distributed in North America.

When discussing what should now be called *L. idas*, he used the name "*argyrognomon*," not invalid for much of that time, but after the announcement of Opinion 269 in 1954 the position changed radically. This name was restricted to a newly identified European butterfly. Applied to any other species (e.g., *L. idas*) would be to create a misidentification, and to use it so must be entirely against the Rules. The correct use of the name *Lycaeides idas* L. proposed by the Commission has been accepted everywhere in Europe and Asia. I cannot understand why it has not been accepted in North America.

Catalogue headings for Europe and America should be as follows:

Lycaeides argyrognomon Bergsträsser 1779 (*Papilio*). Europe.

syn: *ligurica* Oberthür 1910 (*Lycaena*); syn: *aegus* Chapman 1917 (*Plebejus*).

Lycaeides idas Linnaeus 1761 (*Papilio*). Palaearctic Region & North America.

syn: *scudderi* W. H. Edwards 1861 (*Lycaena*); syn: *anna* W. H. Edwards 1861 (*Lycaena*); syn: *argyrognomon sensu* Kirby et Auctorum, nec Bergsträsser [misidentification].

Lycaeides melissa W. H. Edwards 1875 (*Lycaena*). North America, ?E. Siberia, ?Japan.

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TIGRIDIA ASESTA (LINNAEUS) (NYMPHALIDAE) IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH *THEOBROMA CACAO* L. (STERCULIACEAE)

The medium-sized (spread wingspan, tip-to-tip, 4.5 cm) orange, brown and white nymphalid butterfly, *Tigridia aesta* (Linnaeus), is broadly distributed in moist-to-wet tropical forests of Central and South America (Seitz, 1904, *Macrolepidoptera of the World*, Vol. 5: The American Rhopalocera, A. Kernan, Stuttgart). A general description